

to spend less money on something else. Just as families sit down and make tough choices every day, Congress now has to decide what the government's priorities should be.

And the new Democratic majority has made America's priorities the priorities of this Congress. We have twice passed the SCHIP legislation to provide working families with health care for their children.

We passed the College Cost Reduction Act, the largest investment in college financial aid since the GI bill. This bill increased Pell Grants, provided tuition assistance for future teachers, and enabled loan forgiveness for first responders, law enforcement officers, and fire fighters.

The new Democratic Congress also honored America's promise to our veterans by passing the largest budget increase in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We have passed appropriations bills that fund the most pressing needs of our country. As the bridge collapse in Minnesota showed, there are serious infrastructure needs throughout the country. In fact, there are 13 deficient bridges alone, according to a study that we were shown today in a Transportation and Infrastructure hearing, in my district, the 19th Congressional District of New York.

The House has increased funding for highway repair by \$631 million over the President's request to make these important repairs.

We have provided \$400 million extra to improve the quality of teachers in America's schools.

House Democrats provided \$1.8 billion above the President's request to invest in renewable energies to save our environment and end our dependence on foreign oil.

Because we have funded these vital needs for America, the President has threatened to veto these bills. After borrowing more money than every other President in history combined, President Bush has decided to pretend to be fiscally responsible. Unfortunately for the President, his Halloween costume just doesn't fit. For as he protests over \$22 billion for American needs, he has watched \$35 billion in taxpayer money get lost or stolen in Iraq. With the money the President has lost in Iraq, we could pay for all of these important needs with billions left over. The President has spent over \$2 billion in Iraq to improve oil production; yet still, production of oil in Iraq remains at below prewar levels.

Now the President threatens to veto the Homeland Security bill because House Democrats have added that same amount to train first responders and protect our ports. It seems that the President believes it is more important to waste money in Iraq than to provide critical equipment and protective gear for 250 fire departments in New York.

The President has stood by while contractors have gone \$144 million over budget building the embassy in Iraq.

With this \$144 million, I believe we should instead provide health care for over 20,000 New York veterans.

The President has paid \$2 billion to provide drinking water to the Iraqi people, although fewer Iraqis now have access to drinkable water than before the war. Yet the President threatens to veto \$1.2 billion, as compared to \$2 billion, for clean drinking water here in America.

Finally, the President stood quietly by as the American government shipped \$8.8 billion in cash to Iraq and simply lost it. You heard me correctly, lost it. There are absolutely no records to explain where this money went. It just disappeared into the Iraqi desert.

The new Democratic majority has spent the last year restoring fiscal sanity to the government's budget. We have passed legislation to help middle-class families insure their children and pay for college. We have funded important needs across this country. I am proud of our work and I urge the President to stop playing politics and sign these important bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the rules of the Committee on Small Business for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Committee on Small Business adopted these rules by voice vote, a quorum being present, at our organizational meeting on January 31, 2007.

RULES AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 110TH CONGRESS, 2007-2008

##### 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Rules of the House of Representatives, and in particular the committee rules enumerated in rule XI, are the rules of the Committee on Small Business to the extent applicable and by this reference are incorporated. Each subcommittee of the Committee on Small Business (hereinafter referred to as the "committee") is a part of the committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the committee, and to its rules to the extent applicable.

##### 2. REFERRAL OF BILLS BY CHAIRWOMAN

Unless retained for consideration by the committee, all legislation and other matters referred to the committee shall be referred by the Chairwoman to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within 14 calendar days. Where the subject matter of the referral involves the jurisdiction of more than

one subcommittee or does not fall within any previously assigned jurisdictions, the Chairwoman shall refer the matter, as she may deem advisable.

##### 3. DATE OF MEETING

The regular meeting date of the committee shall be the second Thursday of every month when the House is in session. A regular meeting of the committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairwoman, there is no need for the meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairwoman as she may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the committee in accordance with clause 2(c) of rule XI of the House.

At least 3 days notice of such an additional meeting shall be given unless the Chairwoman determines that there is good cause to call the meeting on less notice.

The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chairwoman subject to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the House.

A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered or, upon at least 3 days notice, it may be set for a different date.

##### 4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Unless the Chairwoman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the committee by majority vote, determines that there is good cause to begin a hearing at an earlier date, public announcement shall be made of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the committee at least 7 calendar days before the commencement of that hearing.

After announcement of a hearing, the committee shall make available as soon as practicable to all Members of the committee a tentative witness list and to the extent practicable a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing (including relevant legislative reports and other necessary material). In addition, the Chairwoman shall make available as soon as practicable to the Members of the committee any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter as they are received.

##### 5. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(A) Meetings: Each meeting of the committee or its subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television and still photography coverage, except as provided by clause 4 of rule XI of the House, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House; Provided, however, that no person other than members of the committee, and such congressional staff and such executive branch representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business meeting or markup session which has been closed to the public.

(B) Hearings: Each hearing conducted by the committee or its subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage, except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence or other matters